

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend claim 9 as shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Original) A method for collecting a sample derived from faecal material, comprising contacting the faecal material with a fluid and subsequently collecting a sample of the fluid with a brush or brush-like device having flexible or semi-flexible bristles, wherein the sample of the fluid is collected within the bristles of the brush or brush-like device.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the fluid is water.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the bristles of the brush or brush-like device have a length of from 0.2 to 3 cm, preferably from 1 to 2 cm.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the sample collected with the brush or brush-like device is transferred to an assay device for subsequent testing.
5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein said assay device is a test device for detecting occult blood or one or more other indicators of a pathological condition in the faecal material from which the sample is derived.
6. (Original) A method for the detection of occult blood in faecal material, which comprises the steps of:
  - i. contacting the faecal material with water to disperse any blood present in or on the faecal material into the water.
  - ii. subsequently collecting a sample of the water with a brush or brush-like device having flexible or semi-flexible bristles, wherein the sample of water is collected within the bristles of the brush or brush-like device; and
  - iii. detecting the presence of blood, if any, in the sample.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the presence of blood, if any, in a sample is detected by means of a guaiac test.
8. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the presence of blood, if any, in the sample is detected by means of an immunochromatographic test.
9. (Currently Amended) An assay kit for testing faecal material, which comprises a sample collection device which is a brush or brush-like device having flexible or semi-flexible bristles wherein a fluid sample may be collected within the bristles of the brush or brush-like device, together with means for detection of an analyte in a sample derived from the faecal material.
10. (Original) A kit according to claim 9, wherein the bristles of the brush or brush-like device have a length of from 0.2 to 3 cm, preferably from 1 to 2 cm.
11. (Original) A kit according to claim 9, wherein said means for detection is a test device for detecting occult blood or one or more other indicators of a pathological condition in the faecal material from which the sample is derived.